

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

ZAVIUS AVERETTE,
Plaintiff,

v.

LT. WILLIE COPELAND, et al.,

2006 OCT 25 A 10 38

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT, ALA.

2:06-CV-399-MHT

PLAINTIFF RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS
SPECIAL REPORT

comes now the plaintiff Zavius Averette, pro se, and files this response to defendants special report and moves this court to deny defendants Motion to Dismiss/Summary judgment and would show the court as follows:
Plaintiff filed a lawsuit on , alleging that his rights under the (8) eight Amendment to the United States Constitution had been violated. The defendants have responded that they deny plaintiff allegations and have requested that judgment be entered in their favor. Plaintiff contend that the issues raised in his complaint are cognizable claims established in fact and law, that they had a duty to comply with. Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable court deny defendants Motion due to the fact that there are many genuine issues of material facts which are in dispute.

There are genuine issues of material fact that preclude summary judgment for the plaintiff's use of force claims. . . Summary judgment is to be granted only if the record before the court shows "that there is no genuine issues as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Rule 56(c), Fed. R. Civ. P. . . A "material" fact is one that might affect the outcome of the suit under governing law. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). The affidavits of the plaintiff and the defendants are squarely contradictory as to what force was used, when it was used, and how it was used, and why it was used. The allegation in the plaintiff lawsuit and affidavits portrays a completely needless use of force against and inmate who was passive, attempting to cooperate and who posed no threats to defendants. This is clearly a genuine issue of fact! The factual dispute is also material. Under the governing law, whether the use of force by prison staff violates the (8) Eight Amendment depends on whether it was "applied" in a good faith effort to maintain or restore discipline or maliciously and sadistically to cause harm. *Hudson v. McMillian*, -U.S.-, 112, 320-321, 106 S.Ct. 1078 (1986) The facts alleged by the plaintiff are evidence that the defendants were acting "maliciously and sadistically to cause harm," they would support a jury verdict in the plaintiff favor. see *Miller v. Leathers*, 903 F.2d 1085, 1088 (4th Cir. 1990) (en banc), cert. denied, 111 S.Ct. 1018 (1991).

Oliver v. Williams, 44 F.3d 116, 117 (5th Cir. 1995). Testimony that a beating was completely gratuitous and that no force was necessary would support a finding of Malice), *Lewis v. Downs*, 774 F.2d 711, 714 (6th Cir. 1985) (Evidence that an officer hit and kicked a handcuffed person who was laying on the ground showed Malicious Motivation).

"Qualified Immunity"

A defense of qualified immunity is not available in cases alleging excessive force in violation of the (8) Eight Amendment, because the use of force "Maliciously and sadistically to cause harm" is clearly established to be a constitutional violation *Skritch v. Thornton*, 280 F.3d 1295, 1301 (11th Cir. 2002). citing *Hudson v. McMillon*, 503 U.S. 1 (1992), and *Whitley v. Albers* 475 U.S. 312 (1986). . . . The only question is whether the plaintiff alleges a fact enough to survive a motion for summary judgment, unless the force was de minimis. *Skritch v. Thornton* 280 F.3d at 1302; see also *Hudson* 503 U.S. at 9-10; *Harris v. Chapman* 97 F.3d 499, 505 (11th Cir. 1996). In *Hudson v. McMillon*, 503 U.S. 1 (1992), the court held that the use of excessive physical force against a prisoner may constitute cruel and unusual punishment even though the prisoner "does not" suffer serious injury, excessive force cases are controlled by the analysis set forth in *Whitley v. Albers*, 475 U.S. 312 (1986), under *Whitley*, the core inquiry is whether the force was applied in good faith effort to maintain or restore discipline or applied maliciously and sadistically for the purpose of causing harm.

While plaintiff contends and avers that he suffered serious injury that required medical attention, the injury received by the plaintiff is only one factor to consider. . While the absence of serious injury is relevant to Eighth Amendment inquiry, it does not end it. . Hudson, 503 U.S. at 7. the court should also consider the need for the application of force and, the amount of force exerted, the threat reasonably perceived by the official, or any effort to temper the severity of the force, etc. . There is a factual dispute concerning whether the application of force was justified or necessary, and whether the use of force was excessive under the circumstances. The plaintiff also avers that during this malicious and sadistically use of force, that defendants C.O.s. Lotmore stood by and fail to stop the unwarranted use of force. Plaintiff avers that by failing to intervene or stop the brutal beating of plaintiff, she were "deliberately indifferent, defendants prison officials may be held liable under the constitution for acting with deliberate indifference" to an inmate's safety, when the official know that the inmate faces a substantial risk of serious harm and disregards that risk by failing to take reasonable measures to abate it. *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825 (1994). . Defendants knew that failing to take measures to abate it that plaintiff faced a substantial risk of serious injury due to the brutal nature of the assault, that plaintiff was cooperating and at no time offered resistance. Plaintiff contends that defendant Warden Thomas were also deliberately indifferent to a substantial risk to his

safety. Even though defendant had no prior warning that this particular incident would occur defendants were aware of a pattern and practice of prisoners being tortured and abused but refuse to take adequate measures to abate it or prevent these brutal assaults. Plaintiff needs to conduct discovery to substantiate these claims. However, there exist a genuine issue of material fact that preclude summary judgment on plaintiff's claims of deliberate indifference to plaintiff's safety. Furthermore defendant Warden Thomas fail to investigate or have this matter investigated until after it filed my complaint, demonstrating a complete disregard for plaintiff's health and safety.

ARGUMENT POINT-(2.)

The supreme court has ruled that "deliberate indifference to serious medical needs of prisoners" is cruel and unusual punishment. *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976). The plaintiff alleges facts in his complaint that states a constitutional claim under this standard. . . . Plaintiff avers that after he was beaten he was bloody suffered swelling, bruises and injuries that caused a substantial amount of pain. After plaintiff was beaten he was escorted to the infirmary by c.o.w. Kendrick and while at the infirmary PHS nurse Adior and Parnell fail to treat plaintiff for his injuries properly and failing to submit plaintiff medical body chart according to proper filing of plaintiff's injuries.

Plaintiff has never referred to an ex-ray medical personnel, upon the showing of a busted left elbow and swelling right arm and badly bruised right legs, by female nurses Mrs. Parnell and Mrs. Adior. When plaintiff was interviewed by FBI investigator Mr. Ed Sasser was determined upon examination that plaintiff suffered from a serious injury that required ex-raying. It's the necessity and not the desirability of medical treatment sought which is important to the determination of whether medical officials have exhibited deliberate indifference. . . Woodall v. Foti, 648 F.2d 268 (5th Cir. 1982). . . . Finally, courts have acknowledged that conditions that cause significant pain are serious medical needs. . . . McGuckin v. Smith, 974 F.2d 1050, 1060 (9th Cir. 1992). ("Chronic and substantial pain" indicates that a medical need is serious); Borretti v. Wiscomb, 930 F.2d 1150, 1154-55 (6th Cir. 1991). (Needless pain is actionable even if there is no permanent injury); Dean v. Coughlin, 623 F.Supp. 392, 404 (S.D. N.Y. 1985) ("conditions that cause pain, discomfort, or threat to good health" are serious). . . This is true because a chief purpose of the cruel and unusual punishment clause is to prevent the unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain. . . (Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. at 104 (citation omitted)). Plaintiff complaint and affidavit allege, that the plaintiff has suffered pain, swelling, bleeding, bruises, and abrasions are sufficient enough to make plaintiff medical need serious. This, and the fact that the prison nurse covered up facts that can be contradicted by the testimony or written disposition of Mr. Ed Sasser.

The law regarding the situation that plaintiff alleges are unconstitutional has been clearly established for some time. Officials of the defendants of corrections and in the state of Alabama, perhaps more than any other state, especially this prison, have regularly and forcefully been reminded of the minimal constitutional standards governing prison confinement since the first judgment(s) entered in *Newman v. Alabama*, 342 F. Supp. 278 (M.D. Ala. 1972); and, *Pugh v. Lock*, 406 F. Supp. 318 (1976). All the defendants have had knowledge or should have had knowledge in these areas, and know these established laws existed and their duties to enforce and comply with them. Lastly, the defendants' claim of immunity is untrue! The eleventh amendment "does not" bar actions against state officers in their official capacity if plaintiff seeks only declaratory judgment and/or injunctive relief. *Choloux v. Killeen*, 886 F.2d 247 (1989 CA.9 2d Cir.). Plaintiff sues each defendant in his or her official capacity for declaratory and injunctive relief and, in his or her official capacity or in his or her individual capacity for damages.

Wherefore, for the foregoing reasons plaintiff moves that defendants' Motion To Dismiss, be denied, that an evidentiary hearing be scheduled, a scheduling order be entered, and this case be set for trial permitting parties reasonable discovery.

Respectfully Submitted
 Lavius Averette #217905
 1000 St. Clair Rd
 Springville, AL 35146

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 20 day of Oct,
2006.

served a copy of the foregoing on defendants
counsel, by placing same in the United States Mail,
postage pre-paid and addressed as follows;

Staff Attorneys
Benjamin H. Albritton
Richard B. Gorrett
P.O. Box 270
Montgomery, AL 36101-0270

CLERK OF COURT
United States District Court
P.O. Box 711
Montgomery, AL 36101-0711

Zovius Averette
Plaintiff, pro se
1000 St. Clair Rd.
Springville, AL 35146